

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Rat Hole Ridge Aspen Enclosures

**Proposal Number:** 1519

**DWR Region:** Northeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** BLM

**County:**

**Project Manager:** Steve Strong

**PM Phone:** 4357816733

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2009

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**Project Location:** Rat Hole Ridge in the Book Cliffs Mountains

**Project Description:** Construct two 2.5 acre Aspen enclosures on Rat Hole Ridge in the Book Cliffs.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Aspen stands in the bookcliff mountains are declining in both condition and vigor, and the stands that are suckering, grazing herbivores are browsing the suckers, preventing the suckers from evolving into mature trees. As the suckers die out, then the aspen stand deteriorates as there are no replacement trees to maintain the stand, and eventually a stand will die out. The project area is at risk from continued herbivore grazing on aspen suckers, and each of the identified areas are at immediate risk from the lack of tree replacement.

**Objectives:** Construct a two acre enclosure around each of the two identified aspen stands to protect the aspen stands.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** Relevant to the mountain browse/aspen habitat type that are classified as priorities in the WAP. Relevant to Strategic Plans: a tier III species, mule deer, as identified in the WAP. The project also relates to fire and fuel management plans. The project is relevant to herd management plans for mule deer and elk in the Book Cliffs unit.

**Potential Risks:** No risks anticipated because no vegetation would be treated and the proposed action is quite simple.

**Proposed Methods:** Two 2.5 acre enclosures will be constructed that will be 7' tall. The enclosure will consist of 52" wire hog panels with 7' treated wooden poles. BLM fuels crews will construct the enclosure.

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**Shapefile Name:** 1519.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed  
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed  
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Transect belts measuring aspen sucker density will be established prior to enclosure construction, and then read once every two years.

**Grazing Management:** The treatment area currently receives very light grazing use. Since no seeding is planned, no grazing rest is needed.

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Elk	Mule Deer	Shrubsteppe Birds	Domestic Livestock
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## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

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Monday, March 16, 2009 10:37:30 AM

# Project Proposal

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM	\$10,000.00		\$0.00
BLM ARRA	\$20,000.00	3/12/2009	\$20,000.00
Totals	<b>\$30,000.00</b>		<b>\$20,000.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	fencing materials	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Personal Services		\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Totals		<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>

## Project Map:

